

Art Unit: 1796

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Armstrong on 5/14/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 1, line 5, delete "kinds of".
- In claim 1, line 15 (first line of component (B)), insert after "having" the following language: --an indan structure represented by the following general formula (4) in a main chain skeleton of the polyfunctional vinyl aromatic copolymer:



wherein: Q represents a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group, an aromatic ring condensed to a benzene ring, or a substituted aromatic ring; and n represents an integer of 0 to 4 and--

- Cancel claim 2.

Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The present claims are allowable over the closest prior art Hayase (US 5,965,663), Ishii et al (US 6,835,785), and Kawabe (WO 2005/73258) for the following reasons:

The present claims are drawn to a curable resin composition comprising a polyphenylene ether oligomer of formulae (1), (2), and (3) and a solvent-soluble polyfunctional vinyl aromatic copolymer of formulae (a1), (a2), and (4).

Hayase discloses a resin composition comprising a polyarylene ether with carbon-carbon linkage terminal functionality, a polyfunctional vinyl aromatic copolymer having a molecular weight of 5,000 or less including monomer such as divinylbenzene (col. 13, lines 25-59), and a filler; however, it fails to disclose or suggest the presence of an ethylvinyl aromatic compound or a monomer with an indan structure in the polyfunctional vinyl aromatic copolymer.

Ishii et al discloses a bifunctional phenylene ether oligomer identical to the one presently claimed but fails to disclose or suggest the combination of the bifunctional phenylene ether oligomer with a polyfunctional vinyl aromatic copolymer.

Kawabe discloses a soluble polyfunctional vinylaromatic copolymer identical to the one presently claimed but fails to disclose or suggest the combination of the polyfunctional vinylaromatic copolymer with a bifunctional phenylene ether oligomer with terminal vinyl groups. The English-language equivalent of Kawabe, US 7,402,645, has been relied upon in this discussion.

Thus, it is clear that the references, taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

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In light of the above, it is clear that rejections of record are untenable and thus the present claims are passed to issue.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vickey Nerangis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2701.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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/Vickey Nerangis/

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